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NIE procedure ...

21 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Draft DOD 1/5: Production of National Intelligence Estimates

1. This draft was circulated as DOD-41/1.

2. General Hall, Mr. Lumsden (representing Mr. Baker) and I met with the IAC representatives (on 26 August). All seemed satisfied. We have simply tried to reduce the existing procedure to writing; no attempt was made to incorporate language calling for a change in the existing procedure.

3. Two points may nevertheless come up at the IAC:

A. Para. 4 calls for by-passing the IAC representatives "under exceptional or unusually urgent circumstances". For obvious reasons staff officers don't like to consider this even a possibility.

Suggestion: We believe it is essential to provide for this contingency and have pointed out to the IAC representatives that this in fact happens (e.g. in recent sensitive sessions).

B. The draft provides for discounts (para. 5) but not for comment. The point may be made that some of the footnotes which the IAC have allowed for publication were not strictly discounts but in the nature of elaborative comment on or additions to the paper.

Suggestion: We believe comments should not be published in the final text. The language of para. 5, "any agency may discount to any agency of an estimate", is as far as we should go. The addition of a paragraph by an agency in a footnote is in fact a minority dissent from the scope of the majority estimate.

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Acting Assistant Director
National Estimates

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"D & I Directives"